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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

H1

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/717,412	MCLERNON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Phenuel S. Salomon	2109	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *18 November 1803*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-48* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-48* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *18 November 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to the original filing of November 18, 2003. Claims 1-48 are pending and have been considered below.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: the examiner notes the use of acronyms: such as "UI" (page 18, lines18) and others, in the specification without including a description in plain text, as required. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 24, 25, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 24 recites the limitation "said step of selecting at least one characteristic" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 25 recites the limitation "said step of selecting at least one characteristic" in line 6. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102(e) that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1, 3-5, 9-13, 18-19, 23, 30-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over Fritzpatrick et al. (US 6,877,138 B2).

Claim 1: Fritzpatrick discloses a block diagram environment, a medium holding electronic device executable steps for a method, said method comprising the steps of:

designating at least one source block (col. 1, lines 54-57);

selecting at least one characteristic of said source block (col. 2, lines 19-21);

designating at least one destination block (col. 1, lines 42-49); and

propagating said characteristic to said destination block (col. 2, lines 1-14).

Claim 3: Fritzpatrick discloses a medium as in claim 1 above, the method further comprising, after said step of selecting at least one characteristic, the step of creating a data structure for the selected at least one characteristic in said step of selecting, said data structure having a plurality of substructures (col. 4, lines 23-26).

Claim 4: Fritzpatrick discloses a medium as in claim 1 above, wherein said step of selecting at least one characteristic involves the use of a category list, said at least one characteristic of said

source block comprising a plurality of characteristics, each of said characteristics associated with at least one category of said category list (col. 4, lines 4-9).

Claim 5: Fritzpatrick discloses a medium as in claim 1 above, wherein said source block is a subsystem representing a plurality of blocks (different pages) (col. 1, lines 58-61).

Claim 9: Fritzpatrick discloses a medium as in claim 1 above, wherein said step of propagating said at least one characteristic of said source block involves propagating less than all characteristics of said source block (col. 2, lines 19-29).

Claim 10: Fritzpatrick discloses a medium as in claim 1 above, wherein said step of propagating involves propagating less than all characteristics of said source block, as specified by a user (col. 2, lines 19-29).

Claim 11: Fritzpatrick discloses a medium as in claim 1 above, wherein said step of selecting involves selecting said characteristics to be propagated from a GUI (col. 2, lines 19-27).

Claim 12: Fritzpatrick discloses a medium as in claim 1 above, wherein said step of selecting involves selecting said characteristics to be propagated by the use of a short key (col. 4, lines 13-21).

Claim 13: Fritzpatrick discloses a medium as in claim 1 above, wherein said step of propagating

involves propagating less than all characteristics of said source block, as automatically determined based characteristics of said source block and characteristics of said destination block (abstract, lines 3-15).

Claim 18: Fritzpatrick discloses a medium as in claim 1 above, wherein said at least one characteristic is a parameter (col. 2, lines 1-13).

Claim 19: Fritzpatrick discloses a medium as in claim 1 above, wherein said at least one characteristic is a method (col. 2, lines 19-27).

Claim 23: Fritzpatrick discloses a medium as in claim 1 above, wherein said destination block does not have said characteristic prior to said propagating step (col. 2, lines 34-47).

Claim 30: Fritzpatrick discloses a system for providing a block diagram environment for use on an electronic device where the block diagram environment processes the block diagram model to propagate at least one characteristic from a source block to a destination block (col. 2, lines 1-14).

Claim 31: Fritzpatrick discloses a system as in claim 30 above, wherein said at least one characteristic is selected from a GUI (col. 2, lines 19-27).

7. Claims 47-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over Miloushev et al. (US 2002/0069400 A1).

Claim 47: Miloushev discloses in a block diagram environment, a medium holding electronic device executable steps for a method, said method comprising the steps of:

designating a first source block (page 8, para [0144]);

designating a second source block (page 8, para [0147]);

selecting at least one characteristic of said first source block and said second source block, said first source block having said characteristic of a first value, said second source block having said characteristic of a second value (page 8, para [0142] and [0147]);

designating a first destination block and a second destination block (page 8, para [0142] and [0147]); and

propagating said characteristic to said first destination block and said second destination block, said first value propagated to said first destination block and said second value propagated to said second destination block (page 8, para [0138]).

Claim 48: Miloushev discloses the medium as in claim 47 above, wherein said propagating step determines said first destination block and said second destination block by the use of respective contexts relative to said first source block and said second source block (page 8, para [0138]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 2, 8, 24-25, 34-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fritzpatrick. (US 6,877,138 B2) in view of Budinsky et al.(US 6,407,753).

Claim 2: Fritzpatrick discloses a medium as in claim 1 above, but does not explicitly disclose said source block comprises a plurality of source blocks and further comprising, before said step of selecting at least one characteristic, the step of determining an intersection of characteristics common to said plurality of source blocks and wherein said step of selecting at least one characteristic involves a selection from said intersection. However, Budinsky discloses a process of integrating entities.. (col. 1, lines 58-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include characteristics common to both source and destination blocks in Fritzpatrick. One would have been motivated to do so in order to efficiently propagate attributes to different blocks of the system.

Claim 8: Fritzpatrick discloses a medium as in claim 1 above, but does not explicitly disclose the step of undoing said propagating step by returning the characteristics of said destination block to a condition existing prior to said propagating step. However, Budinsky discloses a multi-level undo/redo and direct rules manipulation (col. 3, lines 28-41). Therefore, it would have been

obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include undoing propagating characteristics in Fritzpatrick. One would have been motivated to do so in order to efficiently reinstate the affected block to its original state.

Claim 24: Fritzpatrick discloses in a block diagram environment, a medium holding electronic device executable steps for a method, said method comprising the steps of:

designating a destination block (col. 1, lines 42-49); and

but does not explicitly discloses

designating a plurality of source blocks;

determining an intersection of characteristics common to said plurality of source blocks and wherein said step of selecting at least one characteristic involves a selection from said intersection;

selecting at least one characteristic from said intersection;

propagating said at least one characteristic to said destination block (col. 2, lines 1-14);

However, Budinsky discloses

designating a plurality of source blocks (col. 1, lines 58-67);

determining an intersection of characteristics common to said plurality of source blocks and wherein said step of selecting at least one characteristic involves a selection from said intersection (col. 1, lines 58-67).

selecting at least one characteristic from said intersection (col. 1, lines 58-67); and

propagating said at least one characteristic to said destination block (col. 1, lines 58-67);.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to use the above steps in Fritzpatrick. One would have been motivated to do so in order to quickly deploy the propagation between the blocks.

Claim 25: Fritzpatrick discloses in a block diagram environment, a medium holding electronic device executable steps for a method, said method comprising the steps of:

designating a source block (col. 1, lines 54-57); but does not explicitly discloses

designating a plurality of destination blocks;

determining an intersection of characteristics common to said source block and said plurality of destination blocks wherein said step of selecting at least one characteristic involves a selection from said intersection

selecting at least one characteristic from said intersection;

propagating said at least one characteristic to each of said plurality of destination blocks. However, Budinsky discloses

designating a plurality of destination blocks (col. 1, lines 58-67);

determining an intersection of characteristics common to said source block and said plurality of destination blocks wherein said step of selecting at least one characteristic involves a selection from said intersection (col. 1, lines 58-67)

selecting at least one characteristic from said intersection (col. 1, lines 58-67);

propagating said at least one characteristic to each of said plurality of destination blocks (col. 1, lines 58-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the above steps in Fritzpatrick. One would have been motivated to do so in order to quickly deploy the pertinent characteristic among blocks.

Claim 34: Fritzpatrick discloses a method comprising the steps of:

designating at least one source graphical object (col. 1, lines 54-57);

selecting at least one characteristic of said source graphical object (col. 2, lines 19-21);

designating at least one destination graphical object (col. 1, lines 42-49); and

propagating said characteristic to said destination graphical object (col. 2, lines 1-14), but does not explicitly discloses a software diagram environment, a medium holding electronic device executable steps for a method. However, Budinsky discloses a software tools that are used for software development (col. 10 , lines 16-32). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the language for specifying diagram elements in Fritzpatrick. One would have been motivated to do so in order to facilitate a better visualization of the process of data transfer between the blocks.

Claim 35: Fritzpatrick discloses a medium as in claim 34 above, but does not explicitly disclose said software diagram environment is a unified modeling language diagram. However, Budinsky discloses the use of Unified Modeling Language (col. 2, lines 30-36). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use Unified Modeling Language in Fritzpatrick. One would have been motivated to do so in order to specify a concrete graphical notation for abstract models of various system views.

10. Claims 7, 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fritzpatrick. (US 6,877,138 B2) in view of Iriuchijima (US 6,070,006).

Claim 7: Fritzpatrick discloses a medium as in claim 1 above, but does not explicitly disclose said destination block is a subsystem representing a plurality of lower-level blocks and said step of propagating is restricted to propagating to said destination block that is a subsystem block and propagating does not occur to said plurality of lower-level blocks. However, Iriuchijima discloses non-inheritance attributes from parent to child class (col. 2, lines 36-42). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include propagation restriction in Fritzpatrick. One would have been motivated to do so in order to prevent propagation of attributes to block of different nature.

Claim 21: Fritzpatrick discloses a medium as in claim 1 above, but does not explicitly disclose said at least one source block is a predetermined member of a plurality of said destination blocks. However, Iriuchijima discloses inheritance attributes from parent to child class (col. 1, lines 36-54). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include predetermined member in Fritzpatrick. One would have been motivated to do so in order to quickly deploy attributes to blocks of the same nature.

11. Claims 6, 16-17, 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fritzpatrick. (US 6,877,138 B2) in view of Dhond (US 6,195,092).

Claim 6: Fritzpatrick discloses a medium as in claim 1 above, wherein said destination block is a subsystem representing a plurality of blocks (col. 1, lines 58-61), but does not explicitly disclose

said at least one characteristic is propagated to each of said plurality of blocks. However, Dhond discloses one or more graphical objects where attributes are being propagated (col. 6, lines 15-21). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include characteristic propagation in Fritzpatrick. One would have been motivated to do so in order to simultaneously edit or update multiple blocks attribute in one display.

Claim 16: Fritzpatrick discloses a medium as in claim 1 above, but does not explicitly disclose after said selecting step and before said designating at least one destination block step, the step of determining which blocks of said block diagram environment have characteristics corresponding to the selected at least one characteristic in said step of selecting. However, Dhond discloses the selection of the attributes of the first graphical objects (col. 6, lines 1-14). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the step of determining which blocks corresponding to the at least one characteristic in Fritzpatrick. One would have been motivated to do so in order to accurately identify the associated blocks and thus assuring efficient attribute propagation.

Claim 17: Fritzpatrick discloses a medium as in claim 1 above, but does not explicitly disclose after said step of designating at least one destination block and before said step of designating at least one source block, the step of determining which blocks of said block diagram environment have characteristics that could be propagated to said destination block. However, Dhond discloses the selection of the attributes of the first graphical objects (col. 6, lines 15-21).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the step of determining which blocks corresponding to the at least one characteristic in Fritzpatrick. One would have been motivated to do so in order to accurately identify the associated blocks and thus assuring efficient attribute propagation.

Claim 20: Fritzpatrick discloses a medium as in claim 1 above, but does not explicitly disclose said selecting at least one characteristic step is performed before said designating at least one source block step and said designating at least one destination block step. However, Dhond discloses the selection of the attributes of the first graphical objects (col. 6, lines 15-21). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the step of selecting characteristic in Fritzpatrick. One would have been motivated to do so in order to efficiently identify the associated source and destination objects.

Claim 22: Fritzpatrick discloses a medium as in claim 1 above, but does not explicitly disclose said steps of designating at least one source block and designating at least one destination block are performed from a text-based list. However, Dhond discloses display of graphical objects within a spreadsheet-like graphical user interface (col. 6, lines 1-6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a text-based list of blocks in Fritzpatrick. One would have been motivated to do so in order to better facilitate the selection of block from a wide variety of choices.

12. Claims 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fritzpatrick. (US 6,877,138 B2) in view of Shudo et al (US 6,300,949 B1).

Claim 14: Fritzpatrick discloses a medium as in claim 1 above, but does not explicitly disclose the step of storing information relating to propagating step to enable repeating said selecting step and said propagating step. However, Shudo discloses stored attribute information for further propagating (col. 2, lines 1-30). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include storing information relating to propagating step in Fritzpatrick. One would have been motivated to do so in order to facilitate a faster propagation of the same attribute on a larger scale.

Claim 15: Fritzpatrick discloses a medium as in claim 14 above, but does not explicitly disclose said storing step comprises storing information relating to multiple iterations of said propagating step. However, Shudo discloses stored attribute information for further propagating (col. 2, lines 18-30). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include multiple iterations of propagating step in Fritzpatrick. One would have been motivated to do so in order to easily deploy the same attribute on a larger scale.

13. Claims 26-29, 32-33, 36-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fritzpatrick. (US 6,877,138 B2).

Claim 26: Fritzpatrick discloses a method comprising the steps of:

designating at least one source block (col. 1, lines 54-57);

selecting at least one characteristic of said source block (col. 2, lines 19-21);

designating at least one destination block (col. 1, lines 42-49); and

propagating said characteristic to said destination block (col. 2, lines 1-14), but does not explicitly discloses the use of the method in an electronic device having a block diagram environment. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the above steps. One would have been motivated to do so in order to facilitate a better visualization of the process of data transfer between the blocks.

Claim 27: Fritzpatrick discloses a device as in claim 26 above, Fritzpatrick further discloses said at least one characteristic is a parameter (col. 2, lines 1-13).

Claim 28: Fritzpatrick discloses a device as in claim 26 above, Fritzpatrick further discloses said at least one characteristic is a method (col. 2, lines 19-27).

Claim 29: Fritzpatrick discloses a device as in claim 26 above, Fritzpatrick further discloses said step of selecting involves selecting said characteristics to be propagated from a GUI (col. 2, lines 19-27).

Claim 32: Fritzpatrick discloses a graphical user interface, comprising:

a display of at least one characteristic of a source block eligible for propagation (col. 2, lines 1-5);

a selection indicator to signify any characteristics of said at least one characteristic selected for propagation (fig. 6); and

an activation tool to confirm the selection of characteristics (col. 2, lines 34-40), but does not explicitly discloses in an electronic device having a block diagram environment. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the above steps. One would have been motivated to do so in order to facilitate a better visualization of the process of data transfer between the blocks.

Claim 33: Fritzpatrick discloses an electronic device as in claim 32 above, Fritzpatrick further discloses said display includes a display of a representation of at least one previous propagation, said representation selectable by a user to signify a selection of characteristics (col. 3, lines 6-12).

Claim 36: Fritzpatrick discloses a method comprising the steps of:

designating at least one source component (col. 1, lines 54-57);

selecting at least one characteristic of said source component (col. 2, lines 19-21);

designating at least one destination component (col. 1, lines 42-49); and

propagating said characteristic to said destination component (col. 2, lines 1-14), but does not explicitly discloses in a circuit diagram environment, a medium holding electronic device executable steps. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the above steps. One would have been motivated to do so in order to facilitate a better visualization of the process of data transfer between the blocks.

Claim 37: Fritzpatrick discloses a method, said method comprising the steps of:

designating at least one source component (col. 1, lines 54-57);

selecting at least one characteristic of said source component (col. 2, lines 19-21);

designating at least one destination component (col. 1, lines 42-49); and

propagating said characteristic to said destination component (col. 2, lines 1-14), but does not explicitly discloses in a mechanical diagram environment, a medium holding electronic device executable steps. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the above steps. One would have been motivated to do so in order to facilitate a better visualization of the process of data transfer between the blocks.

Claim 38: Fritzpatrick discloses a method comprising the steps of:

designating at least one source graphical elements (col. 1, lines 42-49);

selecting at least one characteristic of said source graphical elements (col. 2, lines 19-21);

designating at least one destination graphical elements (col. 1, lines 42-49); and

propagating said characteristic to said destination graphical elements (col. 2, lines 1-14), but does not explicitly discloses in a biological diagram environment, a medium holding electronic device executable steps. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the above steps. One would have been motivated to do so in order to facilitate a better visualization of the process of data transfer between the blocks.

Claim 39: Fritzpatrick discloses a method comprising the steps of:

designating at least one source graphical elements (col. 1, lines 42-49);

selecting at least one characteristic of said source graphical elements (col. 2, lines 19-21);

designating at least one destination graphical elements (col. 1, lines 42-49); and

propagating said characteristic to said destination graphical elements (col. 2, lines 1-14), but does not explicitly discloses in a network diagram environment, a medium holding electronic device executable steps. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the above steps. One would have been motivated to do so in order to provide capability for a user to easily distribute data characteristics among various components in the network environment.

14. Claims 40-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fritzpatrick. (US 6,877,138 B2) in view of Zink et al (US 6,738,964 B1).

Claim 40: Fritzpatrick discloses in a block diagram environment, a medium holding electronic device executable steps for a method, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting at least one characteristic of said source line (col. 2, lines 19-21) (source line characteristic is inherent since it carries the characteristic of the source)

propagating said characteristic to said destination line (col. 2, lines 1-14), but does not explicitly disclose

designating at least one source line associated with a first block and a second block of said block diagram environment;

designating at least one destination line associated with a third block and a fourth block of said block diagram environment. However, Zink discloses

designating at least one source line associated with a first block and a second block of said block diagram environment (fig. 9);

designating at least one destination line associated with a third block and a fourth block of said block diagram environment (fig. 9) (a fourth block is inherent). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the above steps in Fritzpatrick. One would have been motivated to do so in order to provide capability for a user to easily distribute data characteristics among various components in a block environment.

Claim 41: Fritzpatrick discloses a medium as in claim 40 above, but does not explicitly disclose said second block and said third block are the same block. However, Zink discloses a plurality of blocks (fig. 9) (Examiner note: usage of the same block is inherent since they have the same characteristics). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the same two blocks in Fritzpatrick. One would have been motivated to do so in order to provide a better system data filtering capability.

15. Claims 42-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fritzpatrick. (US 6,877,138 B2) in view of Wold et al (US 5,386,568).

Claim 42: Fritzpatrick discloses in a block diagram environment, a medium holding electronic device executable steps for a method, said method comprising the steps of:

designating at least one source block (col. 1, lines 54-57);

selecting at least one first characteristic of said source block (col. 2, lines 19-21); but does not explicitly disclose designating a plurality of destination blocks; and propagating said first characteristic to at least one destination block of said plurality of destination blocks. However, Wold discloses

designating a plurality of destination blocks (col. 19, lines 52 to 67); and

propagating said first characteristic to at least one destination block of said plurality of destination blocks (col. 19, lines 52 to 67). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include plurality of destination block in Fritzpatrick. One would have been motivated to do so in order to provide capability for a user to easily distribute data characteristics among independent devices with different parameters in a block diagram environment.

Claim 43: Fritzpatrick and Wold disclose a medium as in claim 42 above, Fritzpatrick further discloses said propagating step determines said at least one destination block in which to propagate said first characteristic is the same block type as said at least one source block (col. 2, lines 1-14); (Examiner note: source and destination blocks should be the same block type in order share the same characteristic).

Claim 44: Fritzpatrick and Wold disclose a medium as in claim 42 above, Fritzpatrick further

discloses said propagating step determines said at least one destination block in which to propagate said first characteristic based on a second characteristic of said at least one source block matching a second characteristic of said at least one destination block in which to propagate said first characteristic (col.2, lines 19-27).

16. Claims 45 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fritzpatrick. (US 6,877,138 B2) in view of Wold et al (US 5,386,568) and in further view of Santori (US 2003/0132964 A1).

Claim 45: Fritzpatrick and Wold disclose a medium as in claim 44 above, but do not explicitly disclose said second characteristic designates said block as representative of a virtual subsystem. However, Santori discloses creating virtual instrumentation system (page 1, para [0009]). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include virtual subsystem in Fritzpatrick. One would have been motivated to do so in order to clearly identify characteristics propagation within block diagram environment.

17. Claims 46 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fritzpatrick. (US 6,877,138 B2) in view of Wold et al (US 5,386,568) and in further view of Singh (US 2003/0132964 A1).

Claim 46: Fritzpatrick and Wold disclose a medium as in claim 42 above, but do not explicitly disclose said destination block is a subsystem representing a plurality of blocks and said at least

one characteristic is propagated to each of said plurality of blocks. However, Singh discloses blocks can be interconnected to form a subsystem (page 1, para [0003]). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include subsystem in Fritzpatrick. One would have been motivated to do so in order to facilitate the distribution of characteristics among blocks in the subsystem.

Conclusion

18. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. Reddy et al. (US 2003/0098880 A1) discloses system and apparatus for programming...

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phenuel S. Salomon whose telephone number is (571) 270-1699. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.(Alternate Friday Off) EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Myhre can be reached on (571) 270-1065. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-3800.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

PSS
5/12/2007

James W. Myhre
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